

EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
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25may06 10:51:07 User260051 Session D607.1
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\$0.41 Estimated cost File1
\$0.08 TELNET
\$0.49 Estimated cost this search
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**EDGAR SIGNS MEASURE TO OVERHAUL MEDICAID IN ILLINOIS WELFARE RECIPIENTS
WOULD GET 'MANAGED HEALTH CARE'**

St. Louis Post Dispatch (SL) - WEDNESDAY, July 27, 1994

By: Tim Novak

Illinois State Correspondent

Edition: FIVE STAR Section: NEWS Page: 02B

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TEXT:

1 SPRINGFIELD, ILL - Welfare recipients will be forced into managed health care programs next year under a bill Gov. Jim Edgar signed Tuesday to cut the state's soaring Medicaid debt.

2 The managed-health programs are set to start April 1, but only if the state gets permission from the federal government, which pays half of all Medicaid bills. State officials plan to seek federal approval next month.

3 Edgar said he believed the state's effort to control Medicaid costs would win approval from federal officials because President Bill Clinton advocates new programs to control health care costs.

"This legislation is designed to tame a budget monster that is playing havoc with tax dollars in Illinois and almost every other state in the union," Edgar said at a press conference in the Executive Mansion, where he is recuperating from heart surgery.

4 "By overhauling our Medicaid program, we will be protecting taxpayers without taking money away from education, services for the abused and neglected children, mental health treatment and other priority needs," the governor said. "The private sector has demonstrated that managed care can bring cost control and predictability to health care."

5 Medicaid costs have doubled since Edgar took office in 1991, leaving state officials unable to pay \$1.4 billion in bills from doctors, hospitals and pharmacies who treat the state's poor.

6 Health-care providers across Illinois have had to wait months to get reimbursed from the state. Now they hope managed health care will help the state pay its medical bills on time.

7 "Illinois physicians see this as a wonderful opportunity," said Dr. Alan Roman, president of the Illinois Medical Society.

Gary Mecklenburg, chairman of the Illinois Hospital Association, said managed health care would "make sure the medically indigent have access to the high quality care that we want to give them."

9 The state now pays health-care providers for each medical procedure they perform. Under the new program, they will be paid a set fee to care for each Medicaid patient, regardless of the person's illness.

9 State officials will start negotiating those fees with doctors and health maintenance organizations so they can begin providing managed-care programs for 1.1 million welfare recipients on April 1. Welfare recipients will then have to choose a health care provider early next year.

10 By putting Medicaid patients in managed health-care programs, state officials hope welfare recipients will seek more preventive health care and reduce the number of people seeking basic care in emergency rooms, a very costly method.

11 State officials also hope the new program will reduce Medicaid fraud and abuse. Each Medicaid patient will get a plastic card that will be scanned by a computer every time the patient seeks medical treatment or a prescription.

The computer should detect patients who visit multiple doctors, often on the same day, to get prescriptions for drugs that are then sold on the streets.

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DESCRIPTORS: HEALTH CARE; MEDICAL; INSURANCE; LEGISLATION
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